

12-16-1860

Letter to John Butler from Isaac Butler, Sarah A. Butler and Mary Butler

Isaac Butler

Sarah A. Butler

Mary Butler

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and who is living in the place how much
it wants for in short tell me every thing
that you think would interest me
I expect to try to build me a house next
summer I have not determined on what
sized one I will build yet but it will
not be very large I need a good house
and barn on my place and then I would
be pretty well fixed for a poor man
I have just finished plowing for wheat to be
put in February the ground is in fine order
I want you to tell me what the prospect of selling
the old place and what your notions is about
selling it It seems to me if it can be sold
to a good advantage we had better have the
good of it while we live I have not received
a letter from Brother James for 3 years I have
written to him but whether he ever got them or
not is more than I know Tell him the next
time you see him to write to me and relieve
his conscience I want you to tell me where to write
to Joseph and William My little girl just now
raised up in bed and wanted to know who I am
writing to she is a very promising child with 4 years
old next April I must close for this time
write soon Isaac M. Butler Sarah Ann Butler
Mary Ellen Butler

At Home Dec. 16th 1860

Dear Brother As it has been some
time since I wrote ~~to you~~ ~~Dear Brother~~
take the present opportunity to write
to you I am in better health than I have
enjoyed for seven or eight years my wife's
health has been very poor of late
her disease is of the heart she is better
now than she has been since she was
taken excepting a very severe cold.
My little girl is in good health except
cold, Mother was at my house about
a week ago she is in good health as usual
we were up to Isaac Smiths last week
they were all well. all the rest of the family
are as well as common as far as I know but
Eliza Grand she has been complaining
of her lungs for some time I believe
this is about as bad a country on the lungs
as Illinois altho when I first came here
there was not such a thing known as lung
complaint. there is some other sickness
consisting of typhoid & lung fever putrid
sore throat there is not very much sickness
this winter as yet we have had a very
pleasant summer good crops a pleasant
fall & winter so far

The roads are in pretty good condition considering all things people are fencing up their land moving the road and confining them to lanes and but very little work done on them we have marketed our surplus wheat at 40 to 50 cts per bushel pork is worth from 12 to 16 cts Beef 10 1/2 cts on foot every thing that we have to buy is as high as when times were good. Stock of all kinds has come down I moved back on my farm last May and have been very busy fixing up my fences and putting things to rights I have now my 320 acres of land all under fence divided into two pastures I intend to keep one for a winter pasture I have about 15 head of horses which is the most stock I have there is no sale for property of any kind except Hogs & Sheep every body is trying to get all the hogs & sheep they can pork is pretty good price and cash which is about all the produce of the farm that will bring the cash. people are improving their farms all they can but times are so hard that every branch of business goes on very slow. there has been considerable talk about the Silver mines found here in Oregon but I am not prepared to say whether it is in paying quantities or not if it turns out to be good there is plenty

of the Ore in 6 miles of my place it takes some time to have the Ore properly tested I would be glad if they would be rich for we need some money over here about sunset about now. It is thought by a great many that our war debt will be payed off this session of Congress if so it will help us some but not like it would once a great deal of it is in the hands of Speculators I suppose some of you back there think that Congress has served us right in keeping us out of our pay for 5 years. or some of the members of Congress seem to think so as they would not oppose the payment of the war debt. all I wish is that some of them Silk Gloved Gents had to shoulder their gun and blankets and wade through the snow and live on horse meat as we did but they can make the best of it this time for it is the last time I will volunteer to help Uncle Sam's boys out a bad scrape. I am willing to fight for my country when it is necessary but I had rather go on my own hook next time. I want you to write to me as soon as you get this and tell me all about the old place whether the Old Barn is still standing get and how large Mother's Walnut tree is

Butler Family Letters

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Title: Letter to Brother from Isaac M. Butler, Sarah Ann Butler and Mary Ellen Butler (at Home)

Date: December 16, 1860

Transcription:

At Home Dec. 16th 1860

Dear Brother

As it has been some time since I wrote to you I will take the present opportunity to write to you I am in better health than I have enjoyed for seven or eight years my wifes health has been verry poor all Summer her disease is of the heart She is better now than she has been since she was taken excepting a verry severe cold.

My little girl is in good health except cold. Mother was at my house about a week ago She is in good health as usual we were up to Isaac Smiths last week they were all well. All the rest of the connection are as well as common as far as I know but Eliza Ground she has been complaining of her lungs for some time. I believe this is about as hard a country on the lungs as Illinois altho when I first came here there was not such a thing known as lung complaint. There is some other sickness consisting of typhoid & lung feaver putred soar throat. there is not verry much sickness this winter as yet we have had a verry pleasant Summer good crops a pleasant fall & winter so far

The roads are in pretty good condition considering all things people are fencing up their land moveing the road and confining them to lanes and but very little work done on them we have marketed our surplus wheat at 40 to 50 cts per bushel pork is worth from .04 to .06 cts Beef .04 cts on foot everything that we have to buy is as high as when times were good. Stock of all kinds has come down. I moved back on my farm last May and have been verry buisy fixing up my fences and putting things to rights I have now my 320 acres of land all under fenc divided into two pastures I intend to keep one for a winter pasture I have about 15 head of horses which is the most stock I have there is no sale for property of any kind except hogs & sheep every boddly is trying to get all the hogs & sheep they can pork is pretty good price and cash which is about all the produce of the farm that will bring the cash. people are improveing their farms all they can but times are so hard that every branch of buisness goes on verry slow. there has been

considerable talk about the Silver Mines found here in Oregon but I am not prepared to say whether it is in paying quantities or not if it turned out to be good there is plenty of the Ore in 6 miles of my place it takes some time to have the Ore properly tested I would be glad if they would be rich for we need some money over here about sunset about now. It is thought by a great many that our war debt will be payed off this session of Congress if so it will help us some but not like it would once a great deal of it is in the hands of speculators I suppose some of you back there think that congress has served us right in keeping us out of our pay for 5 years. as some of the members of Congress seem to think so or they would not oppose the payment of the war debt. All I wish is that some of them Silk Gloved Gents had to sholder thier gun and blankets and wade through the snow and live on horse meat as we did but they can make the best of it this time for it is the last time I will volunteer to help Unkle Sams boys out a bad scrape I am willing to fight for my country when it is necessary but I had rather go on my own hook next time. I want you to write to me as soon as you get this and tell me all about the old place whether the old barn is still standing yet and how large mothers walnut tree is and who is living on the place how much it wrents for in short tell me everything that you think would interest me

I expect to try to build me a house next Summer I have not determined on what sized one I will build yet but it will not be verry large I need a good house and barn on my place and then I would be pretty well fixed for a poor man.

I have just finished plowing for wheat to be put in February the ground is in fine and I want you to tell me what the propect of selling the old place and what your notions is about selling it It seems to me if it can be sold to a good advantage we had better have the good of it while we live I have not recieved a letter from brother James for 3 years I have written to him but whether he even got them or not is more than I know Tell him the next time you see him to write to me and relieve his conscience I want you to tell me where to write to Joseph and William My little girl just now raised up in bed and wanted to know who I am writing to She is a very promising child will be 4 years old next April I must close for this time

Write soone

Isaac M Butler, Sarah Ann Butler
Mary Ellen Butler

I have just finished plowing for wheat to be put in February the ground is in fine order I want you to tell me what the prospect of selling the old place and what you notions is about selling it it seems to me if it can be sold to a good advantage we had better have the good of it while we live I have not recieved a letter from brother James for 3 years I have written to him but whether he even got them or not is more than I know Tell him the next time you see him to write to me and relieve his conscience I want you to tell me where to write to Joseph and know who I am writing to She is a very promising child will be 2 years old next April I must close for this time

Write Soone

Isaac M Butler Sarah Ann Butler
Mary Ellen Butler